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has been the experience of the British Club that manuscript lists of desiderata should not be received.

(5.) Each species should be represented by a number of specimens to be determined when the probable number of members shall be ascertained. It is not necessary to emphasize at this time the necessity for complete and satisfactory specimens being furnished, with appropriate labels.

The British Club had in 1886 a membership of fifty-eight, and has been in successful operation for a number of years. It would seem certain that at least an equal number of American botanists would consider it advantageous to join a similar organization.

Suggestions regarding the matter here presented and applications for membership should be sent to the chairman of the Committee, Dr. George Vasey, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. THE COMMITTEE.

Castalia versus Nymphæa.

It may be of interest to those concerned in the discussion of *Nymphæa* and *Nuphar*, brought up in the pages of the BULLETIN, to know that Sir James Edward Smith, in his "Introduction to Physiological and Systematic Botany," published in 1807, refers as follows (p. 385) to *Castalia:* "I believe Mr. Salisbury's *Castalia* is well separated from *Nymphæa*, see *Annals of Botany, v.* 2, 71." It would appear from this that, whatever Smith may have done the year following, in 1807 he accepted *Castalia* and credited Salisbury with it. JOSEPH F. JAMES.

Notes on Smilax pumila, Walt.

The division of *Quercus* into two sections, one annual-fruited and the other biennial-fruited, is familiar to botanists, but it is not so well known that the genus *Smilax* might be similarly divided. Most of our Atlantic coast species flower in spring or early summer and ripen fruit the same year. *S. laurifolia*, L., flowers in July and August, and Chapman notes (Fl., p. 476) that its berries mature "in the fall of the succeeding year." *S. pumila*, Walt., does not bloom till October, but neither Chapman nor Wood mentions the time its berries ripen, nor does Walter in his original description. A fruiting specimen, collected in South Carolina during the last week of December, affords conclusive evidence that this interesting species, as might have been expected, is to be classed, in this respect, with *S. laurifolia.** The main branch of the specimen bears discolored reddish leaves, evidently of two years' growth. A single lateral branch has leaves still fresh and green in appearance. On the main branch are several clusters of ripe red fruit, while on the other the berries are still very small and green, in fact scarcely more than ovaries from which the perianth has but recently fallen. No one examining this specimen could doubt that the immature fruit resulted from the flowers of last October (1887) and that the full-grown red berries must be the fruit of the preceding year (1886). If any confirmation were necessary it is afforded by a specimen from Wm. M. Canby's herbarium, collected in March, 1869, at Hibernia, Florida, which shows the fruit still small and green but somewhat farther advanced than the young berries in this December specimen.

Wood's description of *S. pumila* appears more correct than Chapman's in two or three particulars. Chapman says, "berry whitish,"—Wood, "red when ripe." The latter is strictly correct, although it is quite probable that the berries may be whitish before fully mature. Chapman says, "leaves five-ribbed,"—Wood, "three to five-veined." In my specimen the leaves are very strongly three-veined, the intra-marginal veins being too slight to deserve notice. Finally, Chapman has "peduncles about twice as long as the petioles,"—Wood, "peduncle as long as the petiole." Here, again, Wood is right, the peduncle being, if anything, slightly shorter than the petiole. Students of *Smilax* are aware that these points of difference are all of specific value in this difficult genus, and it is therefore well to put upon record the close agreement of the specimen examined with Wood's description.

I may note in conclusion that the ovoid berries are distinctly and strikingly acute, a peculiarity of shape unmentioned by Wood, Chapman or Walter. E. E. STERNS.

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*It is interesting to observe that these two species are also closely allied by the fact (fide Gray, F. F. & G. Bot., p. 337) that each has a one-celled ovary, a notable variation from the trilocular ovary almost universal in this large genus.